

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

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P 131037Z JUL 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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FOR ADAMS AND MCCLURE

FROM WILLIAMS - PRESIDENT'S COORDINATOR FOR SAHEL

DROUGHT RELIEF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ACOM, XA

SUBJ: FAO/ID RELATIONS RE SAHEL DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS

1. PRESIDENT'S COORDINATOR FOR SAHEL RELIEF, MAURICE WILLIAMS,
MET WITH FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA IN ROME, JULY 11 TO
REVIEW TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR CURRENT COMMITMENTS OF FOOD
TO THE SAHEL AREA, AND NEED FOR ASSESSMENT OF CROP
PROSPECTS, FOOD STOCKS AND SHIPMENTS, IN RELATION TO THE
NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD DURING THE COMING YEAR 1974.
DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR BROWN AND FODAG REPRE-
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SENTATIVE SKILES ACCOMPANIED WILLIAMS AND HELD ADDITIONAL

WORKING SESSIONS WITH NEHEMIAH AND FAO SAHEL RELIEF OPERATIONS STAFF. BOERMA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SENIOR FAO STAFF, INCLUDING JACKSON, YRIAT, NEHEMIAH AND WALTON.

2. REGARDING TRANSPORT, BROWN EXPLAINED TO NEHEMIAH THAT THERE APPEARED REMAIN CERTAIN KEY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FAO AND AID REGARDING AIRLIFT REQUIREMENTS, SINCE IT SEEMED FAO CONTINUED FEEL THERE NEED FOR MASSIVE MOVEMENTS FROM PORTS TO INLAND AREAS WHILE USG FELT THAT WHILE SOME SUCH REQUIREMENTS MAY EXIST, MAJOR CONCERN SHOULD BE SELECTIVE MOVEMENT OF GRAINS TO MORE REMOTE INLAND AREAS. NEHEMIAH SAID THAT FAO THINKING ON THIS MATTER HAS BEEN SHIFTING PARTICULARLY AS THEY TOOK INTO ACCOUNT INCREASE IN DAKAR-BAMAKO RAIL CAPABILITY. AS A RESULT THERE IS NOW IN FACT CONSIDERABLE SIMILARITY IN VIEW BETWEEN FAO AND USG.

3. WILLIAMS DROVE HOME POINT IN CONVERSATION WITH BOERMA THAT OUR PRESENT INFORMATION DID NOT INDICATE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT IN THE REGION, LET ALONE A MASSIVE ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT WHICH KEPT CROPPING UP IN PRESS SUGGESTIONS. FUNDS WERE TOO SCARCE TO ENGAGE UNNECESSARILY IN LARGE AIRLIFT OF FOOD GRAINS, WHEN GROUND TRANSPORT HAD TO BE THE MAJOR APPROACH, WILLIAMS SAID. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL AIRLIFT NEEDS MAY BE IDENTIFIED FOR INLAND MOVEMENTS, PARTICULARLY AS RAINY SEASON PROGRESSES.

4. IN CONNECTION ABOVE, NEHEMIAH POINTED OUT THERE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SOME NEED FOR AIRLIFT FROM PORTS, BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE BASED PRIMARILY ON FACT THAT IT MORE CONVENIENT FLY DIRECTLY FROM PORTS TO CERTAIN INLAND POINTS (E.G. DAKAR TO WESTERN MALI RATHER THAN REACHING THIS AREA FROM BAMAKO) BUT THAT JUSTIFICATION LAY IN SIMPLER LOGISTICS AND FLIGHT PLANS NOT IN NEED TO CLEAR PORTS AS HAD EARLIER BEEN THE CASE.

5. WILLIAMS AND BROWN MADE CLEAR TO BOERMA THAT USG WOULD MAINTAIN PRESENT AIRLIFT CAPACITY IN AREA SO LONG AS THIS IS ESSENTIAL, AND THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUGMENT IT IF THERE IS REALLY DEMONSTRATED NEED. WE HAD NOT SEEN SUCH A NEED DEMONSTRATED TO DATE. WE HAD FELT FAO HAD BEEN MAKING GENERALIZED CALLS FOR INCREASED AIRLIFT WHICH WERE INSUFFICIENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFIC TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR RESPONSE BY OURSELVES. BUT IF IN THE FUTURE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS WERE IDENTIFIED FOR AIRLIFTS, MEETING NEEDS THAT CANNOT OTHERWISE BE MET OVER PARTICULAR PERIODS OF TIME, WE WOULD BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE, RELATIVE, OF COURSE, TO CAPABILITIES OF OTHER DONORS AS WELL. WHILE WELCOMING THIS POSITION, BOERMA DID RECALL THAT WHEN FAO HAD MADE A SPECIFIC REQUEST, I.E., SUDAN-FORT LAMY SEED AIRLIFT, USG HAD NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE.

WILLIAMS RECALLED THAT WHEN THAT REQUEST RECEIVED, WE HAD POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS REGARDING ONWARD MOVEMENT OF SEED FROM FORT LAMY WHICH HAD NEVER BEEN ANSWERED. IN ANY EVENT, USG DID CONTRIBUTE \$300,000 TOWARDS COST OF FAO ORGANIZED COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS FOR THIS SEED LIFT.

6. MAJOR OUTCOME THIS PART OF DISCUSSION WAS THAT HIGHEST LEVELS FAO HAVE NOW ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO NEED FOR AIRLIFT AIMED PRIMARILY AT MOVING PRODUCTS FROM PORT AREA AND THAT ALL AIRLIFT WORK SHOULD BE DIRECTED NOW AT MOVING FOODS INTO MORE REMOTE AREAS THAT CANNOT BE SERVED BY GROUND TRANSPORT. FURTHER, FAO PRESUMABLY UNDERSTANDS THAT WE CONTINUE STAND READY PROVIDE SUCH AIRCRAFT AS MAY BE APPROPRIATE IF SPECIFIC NEEDS ARE IDENTIFIED. HOWEVER, BOTH NEHEMIAH AND BOERMA RAISED OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED JOINT TRANSPORT SURVEY. AS FAR AS WE COULD DETERMINE, THIS WAS PRIMARILY A POLITICAL CONCERN THAT IT WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO FAO, AFTER SOME TIME AS DROUGHT COORDINATOR, NOW TO ASK GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO UNDERTAKE THE KIND OF SURVEY WHICH PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN MADE SOME TIME AGO.

7. OTHER SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION WAS NEED FOR ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD BEYOND PRESENT COMMITMENTS TO COVER PRIOD APPROXIMATELY ONE MORE YEAR. IT WAS AGREED SUH AN ANALYSIS ESSENTIAL AT AN EARLY DATE AND FAO INDICATED IT PREPARED UNDERTAKE LEAD IN SUCH AN EFFORT. FAO WILL THEREFORE IMMEDIATELY PREPARE A SCOPE OF WORK FOR SUCH AN ANALYSIS AND WILL SEEK CONCURRENCE BY INTERSTATE COMMITTEE AND BY KEY DONORS IN THAT SCOPE OF WORK. TENTATIVELY, FAO SUGGESTS INITIAL WORK ON ANALYSIS SHOULD BEGIN LATE AUGUST, WHEN IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE BEGIN ESTIMATING MORE CLEARLY LIKELY OUTCOME OF LOCAL CROP SITUATION. IN ESSENCE, STUDY WOULD SEEK DETERMINE, ON BASIS PROBABLE CRP OUTCOME THIS YEAR, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SPECIAL REQUIRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTS IMPOSED BY DISRUPTION TO ECONOMY RESULTING FROM PRESENT DROUGHT SITUATION, TOTAL FOOD REQUIREMENT FOR REGION AND BY AREA; TIMING AS TO WHEN DELIVERIES SHOULD BE MADE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANTICIPATED TIMING UNDER PRESENT COMMITMENTS; AND TRANSPORT PROBLEMS THAT ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES WILL POSE, WITH AN ATTEMPT BEING MADE TO DETERMINE TIMING/TRANSPORT PROBLEMS SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE TO REDUCE TO MINIMUM FUTURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORT MEANS SUCH AS AIRLIFTS.

8. WILLIAMS INDICATED THAT AID WOULD BE PLEASED PARTICIPATE IN SURVEY AND SUGGESTED IT BE UNDERTAKEN AS A COMBINED OPERATION. WE ALSO WOULD WANT TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE SCOPE OF WORK. BOERMA AGREED BEGIN PREPARATION SCOPE OF WORK IMMEDIATELY AND WILL CONSULT WITH AID AS SOON AS IT IS READY.

WILLIAMS

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